COLOUR IN
CO. LOUTH

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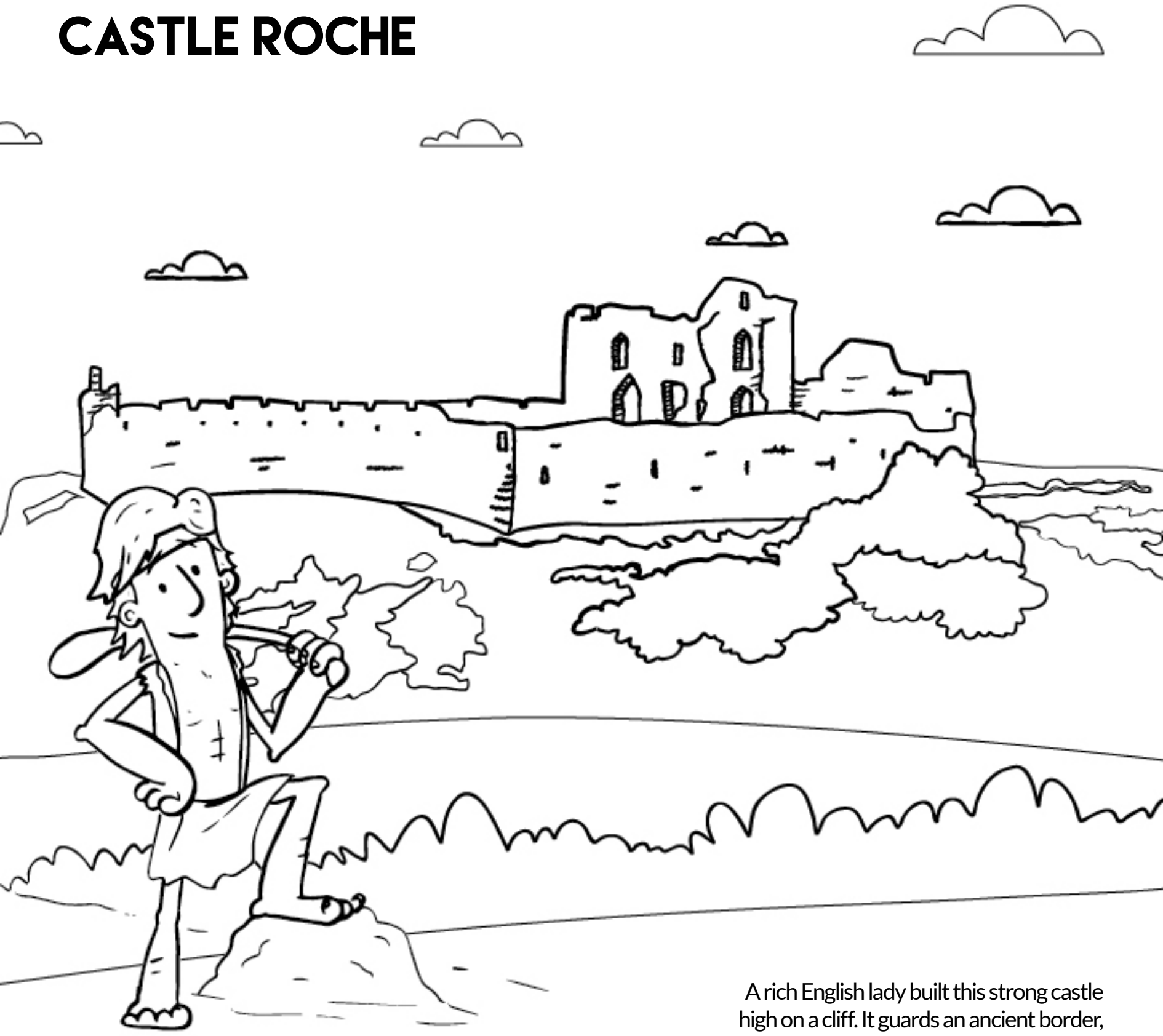
I'm Setanta.
You might know me better by my grown-up name, Cú Chulainn. Follow me and I'll show you some of Louth's great heritage

LAURENCE GATE

This ‘gate’ is really a barbican, you had to get through it first to get to the gate. This is the only one left in Drogheda. It’s one of the best in Europe.

CASTLE ROCHE



A rich English lady built this strong castle high on a cliff. It guards an ancient border, looking out over the hills of south Ulster.

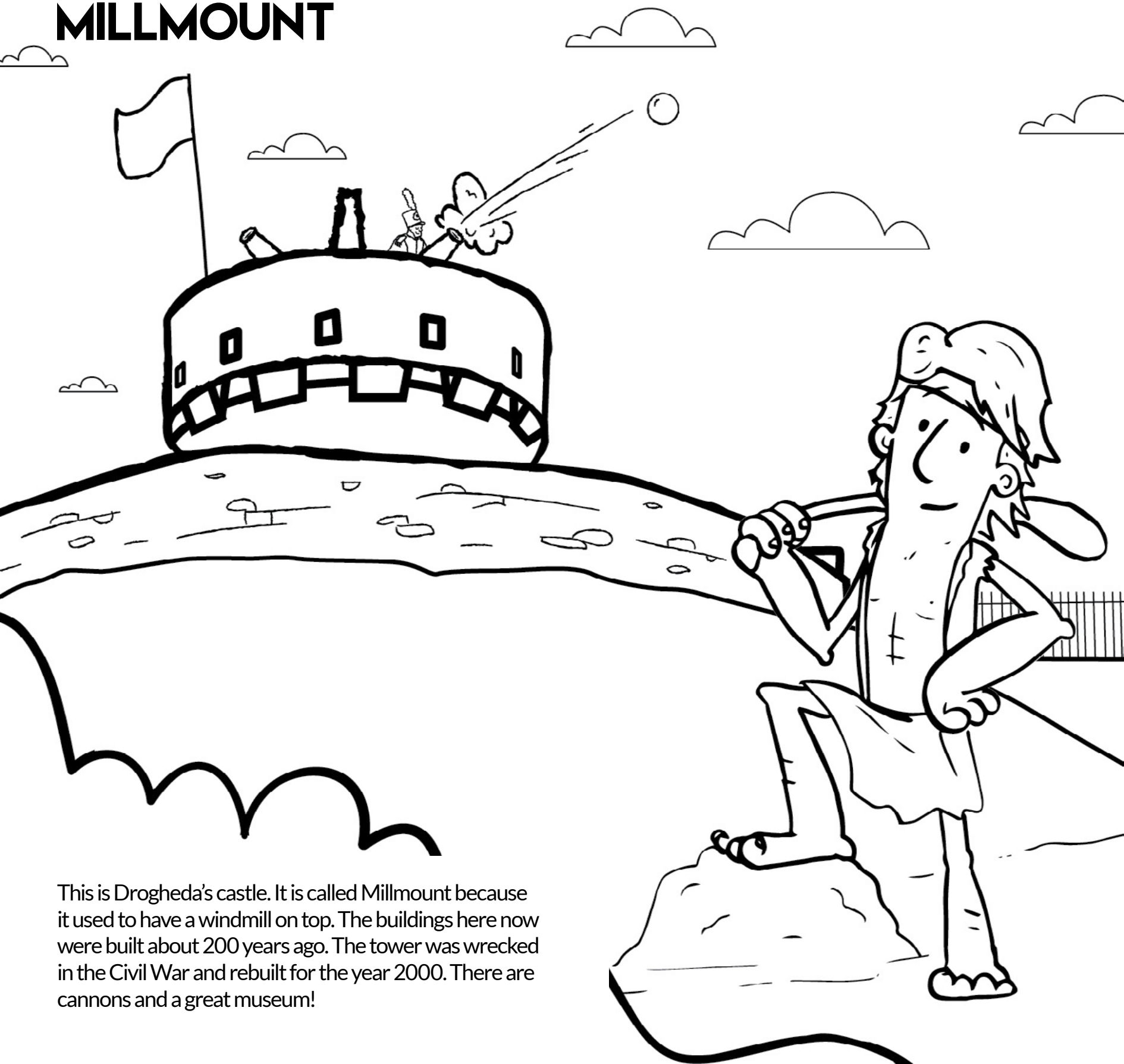
THE READING MONK, DUNLEER

Dunleer, also known as Lann Léire, also had a famous monastery. Monks could read and write, unlike most people long ago (including me).

BALTRAY

This pretty village is near a big beach at the mouth of the River Boyne. Local people protect the 'little terns' that nest on the beach.

MILLMOUNT



This is Drogheda's castle. It is called Millmount because it used to have a windmill on top. The buildings here now were built about 200 years ago. The tower was wrecked in the Civil War and rebuilt for the year 2000. There are cannons and a great museum!

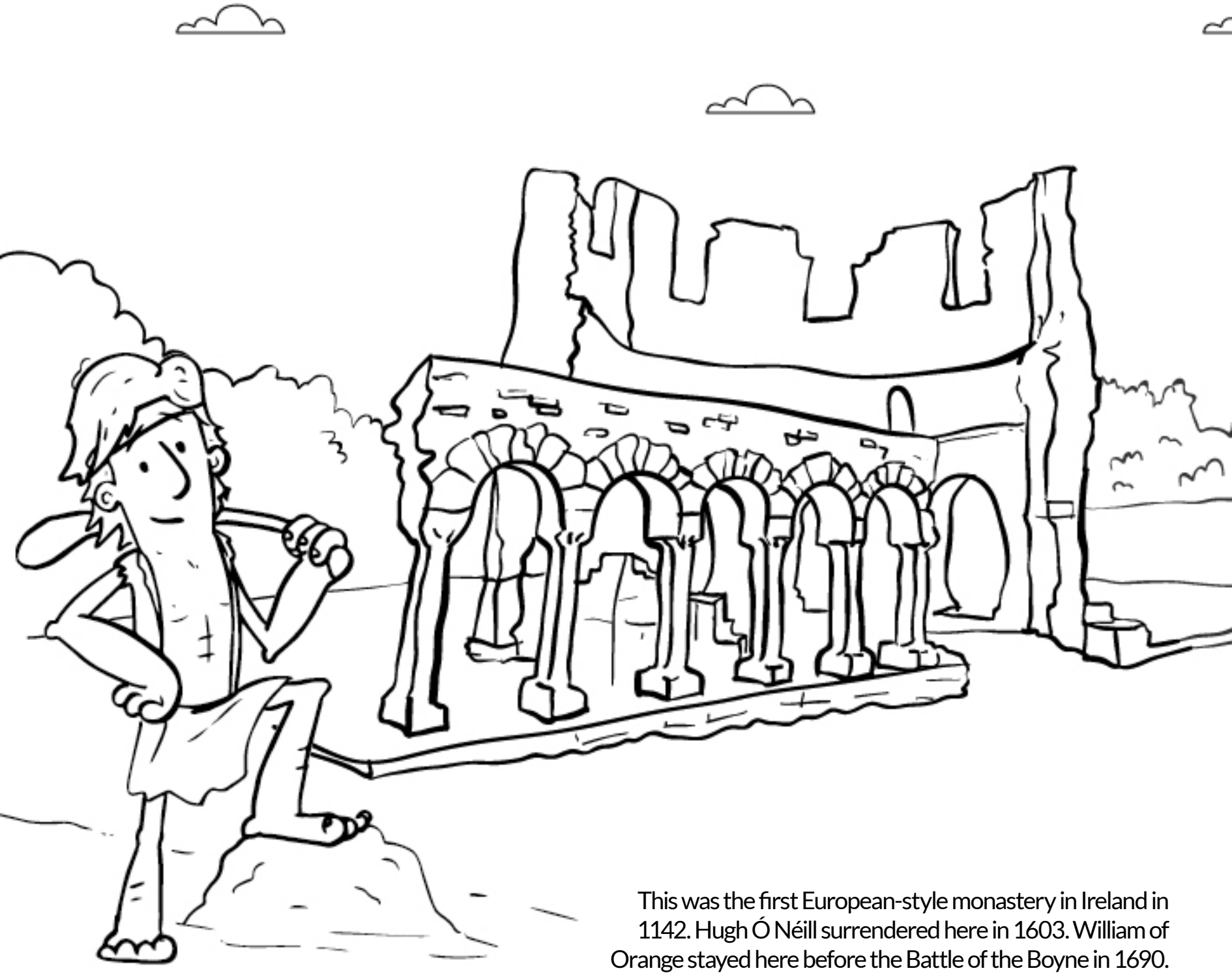
CU CHULAINN'S STONE

This is where Cú Chulainn's story ends, tied onto this big stone facing his enemies. This stone was put up more than 3,000 years ago and is also called 'Cloch an fhír mhóir' – the stone of the big man.

ARDEE CASTLE

Ardee, from Áth Fhirdhia, once defended the English Pale. It has two castles on its main street. These are called 'towerhouses' and Ardee Castle is the biggest towerhouse in any town in Ireland. It used to be the courthouse and prison.

MELLIFONT ABBEY

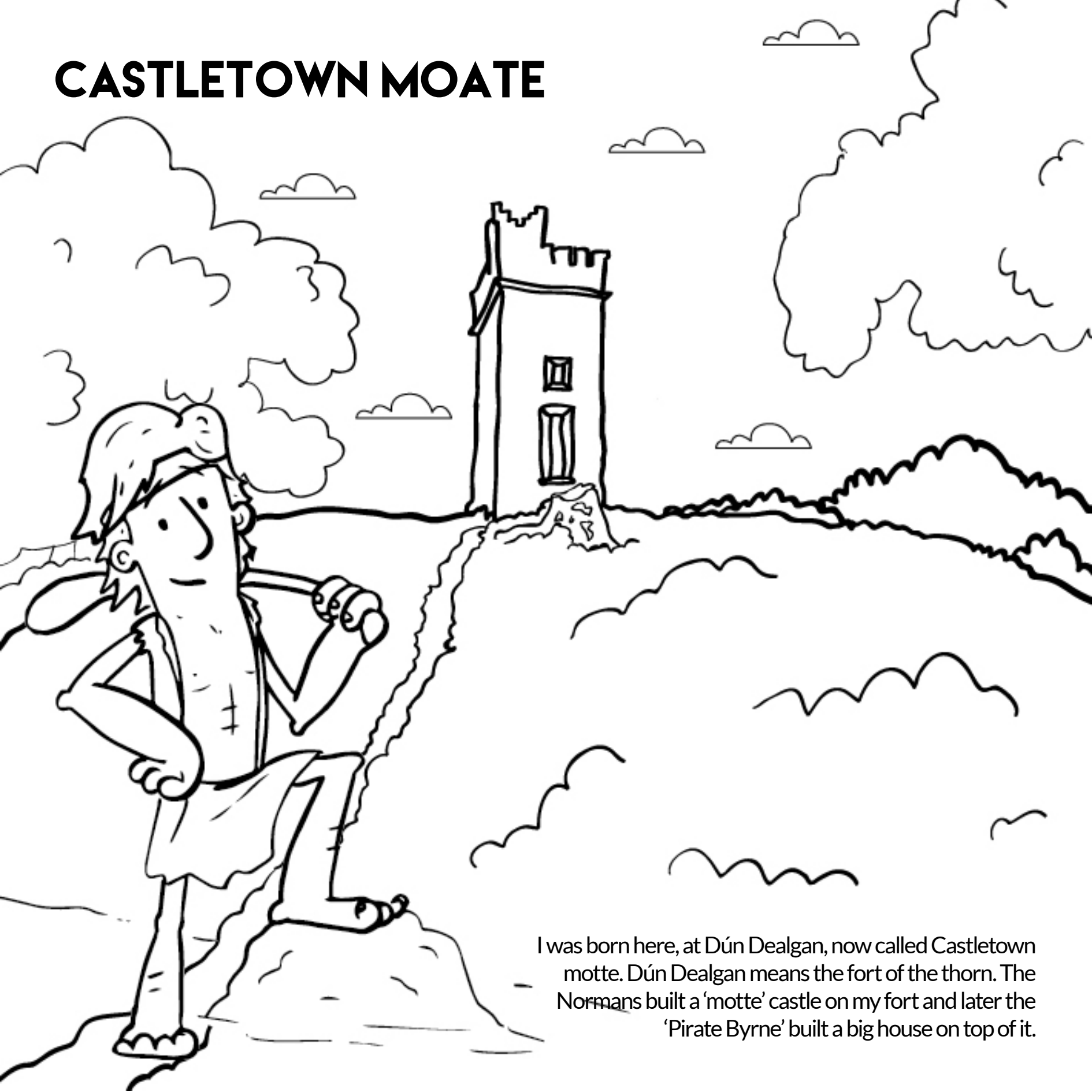


This was the first European-style monastery in Ireland in 1142. Hugh Ó Néill surrendered here in 1603. William of Orange stayed here before the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

BEAULIEU HOUSE

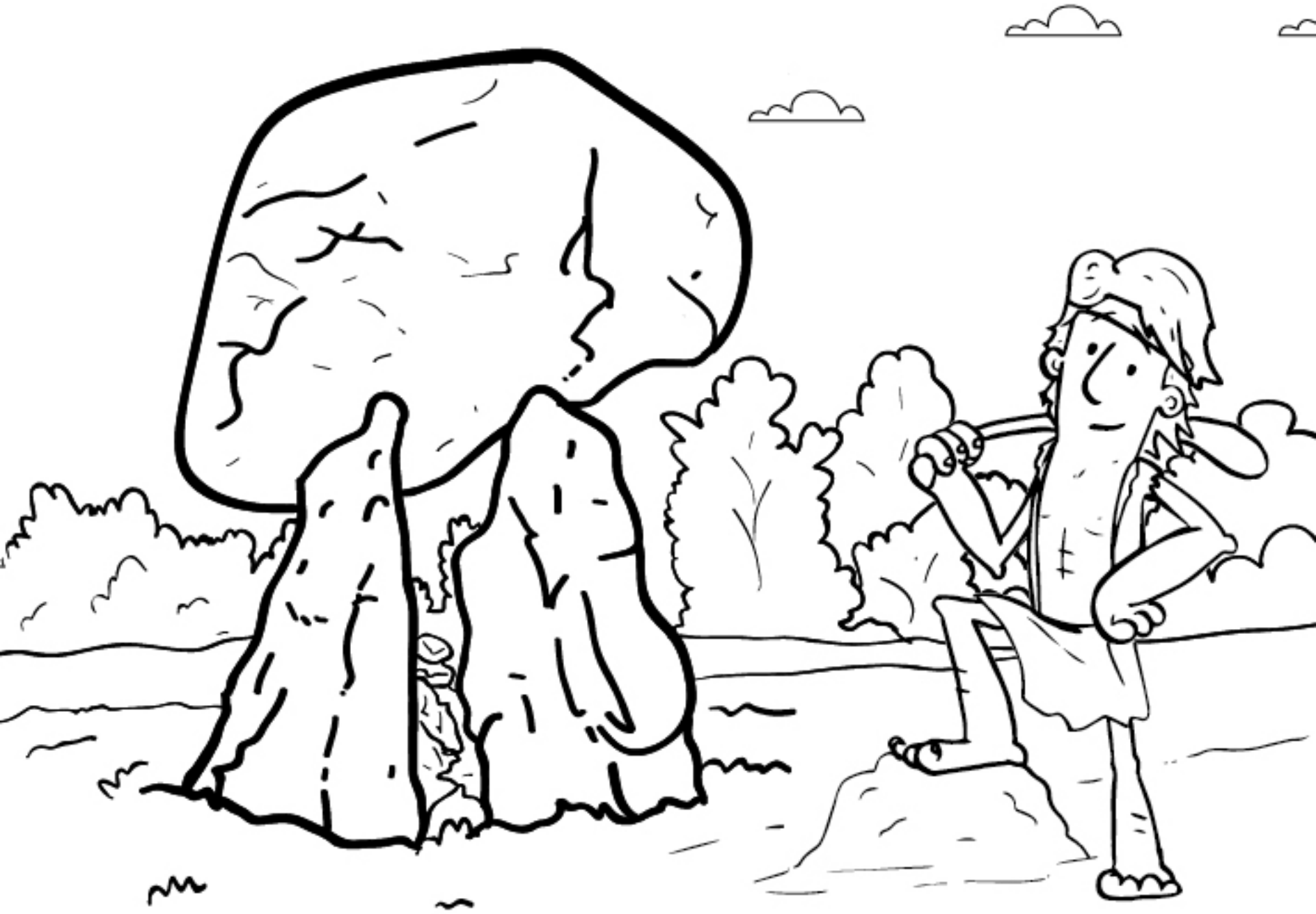
This is one of the oldest ‘big houses’ in Ireland that wasn’t built as a castle. You can visit it and its racing car museum too.

CASTLETOWN MOATE



I was born here, at Dún Dealgan, now called Castletown motte. Dún Dealgan means the fort of the thorn. The Normans built a 'motte' castle on my fort and later the 'Pirate Byrne' built a big house on top of it.

PROLEEK DOLMEN

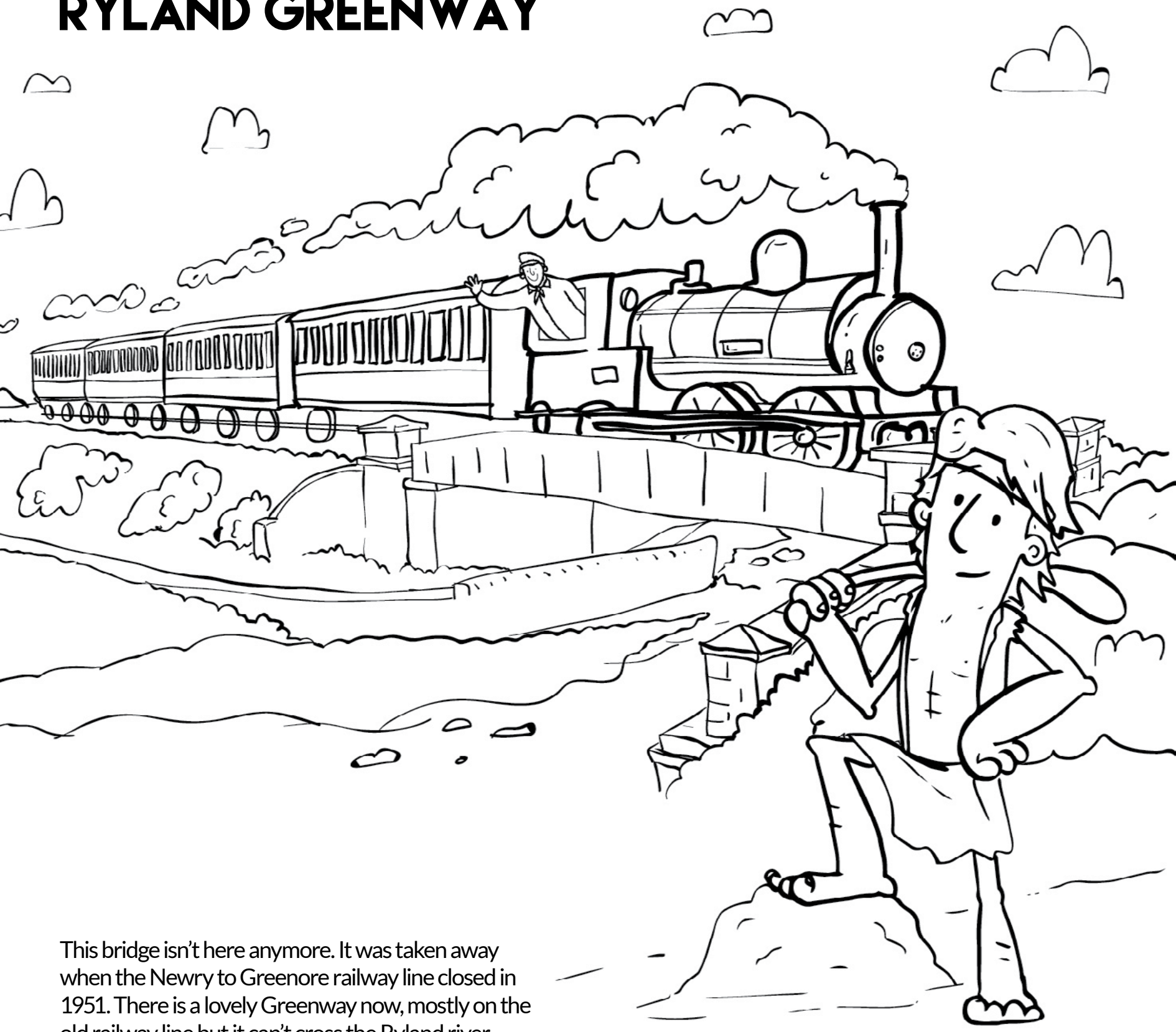


This 40 tonne stone was balanced on three other stones 5,000 years ago. Important people were buried inside it (it was all covered in stones). No one knows who they were now.

DROGHEDA VIADUCT

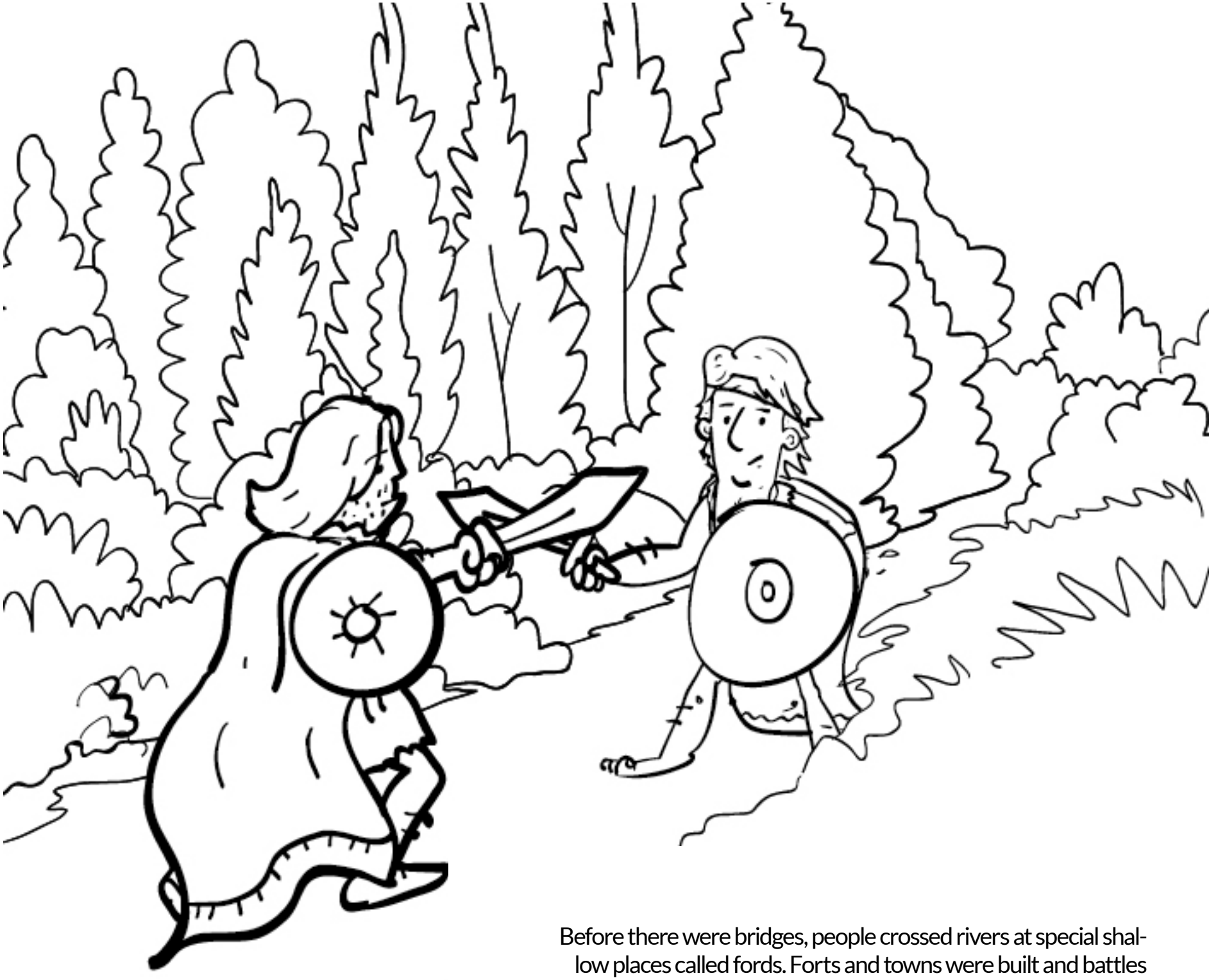
This big bridge was built in 1855 to carry trains over the river Boyne. It is so high that sailing ships can pass under it.

RYLAND GREENWAY



This bridge isn't here anymore. It was taken away when the Newry to Greenore railway line closed in 1951. There is a lovely Greenway now, mostly on the old railway line but it can't cross the Ryland river.

BATTLE AT THE FORD IN ARDEE



Before there were bridges, people crossed rivers at special shallow places called fords. Forts and towns were built and battles took place at these fords. Cú Chulainn had to fight his best friend Ferdia at a ford which is now called Áth Fhirdhia, or Ardee.

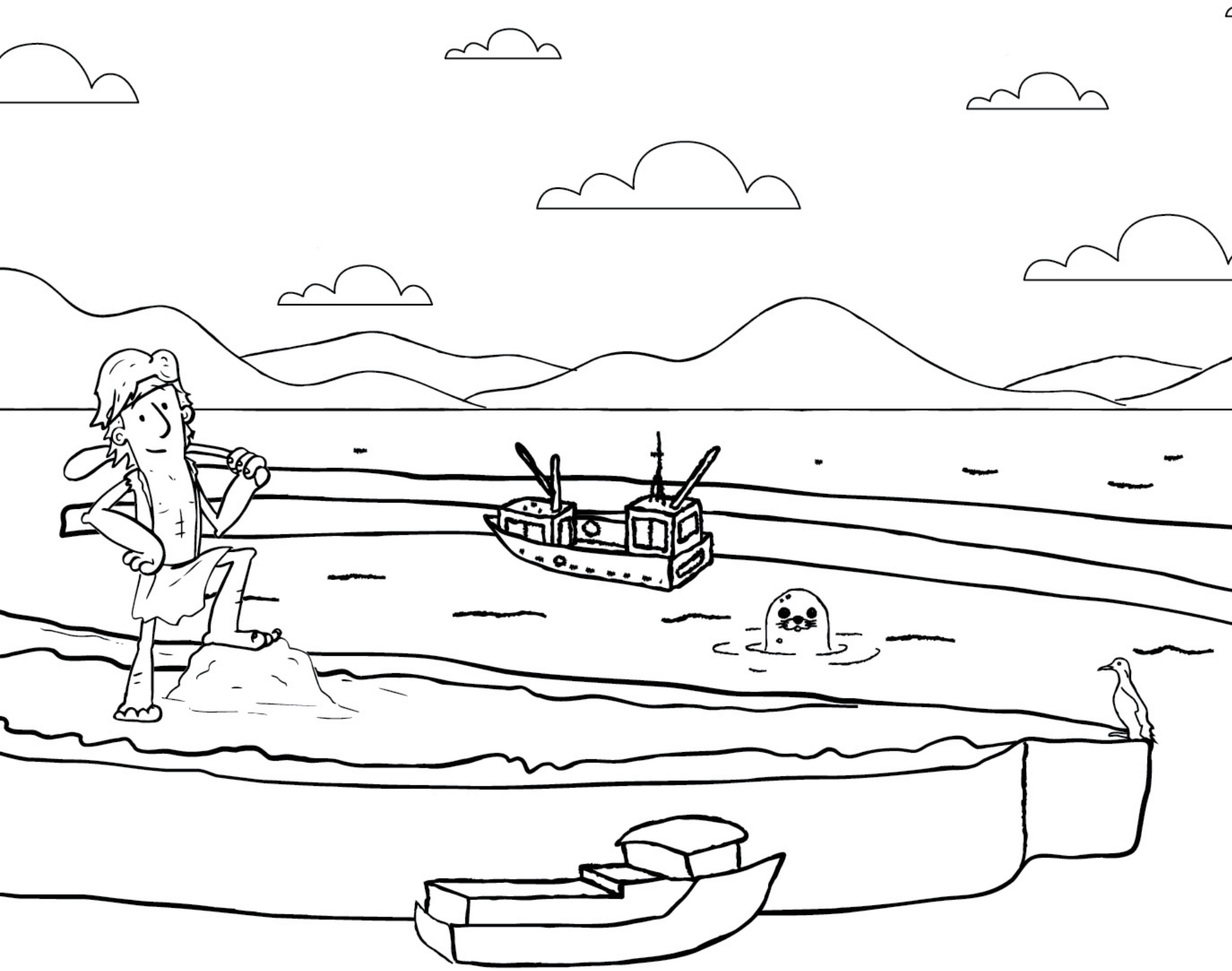
MONASTERBOICE

You can see the world's best High Cross at Monasterboice. All this great monastery's treasures were lost when the round tower was set on fire in 1098.

CHURCH OF IRELAND, COLLON

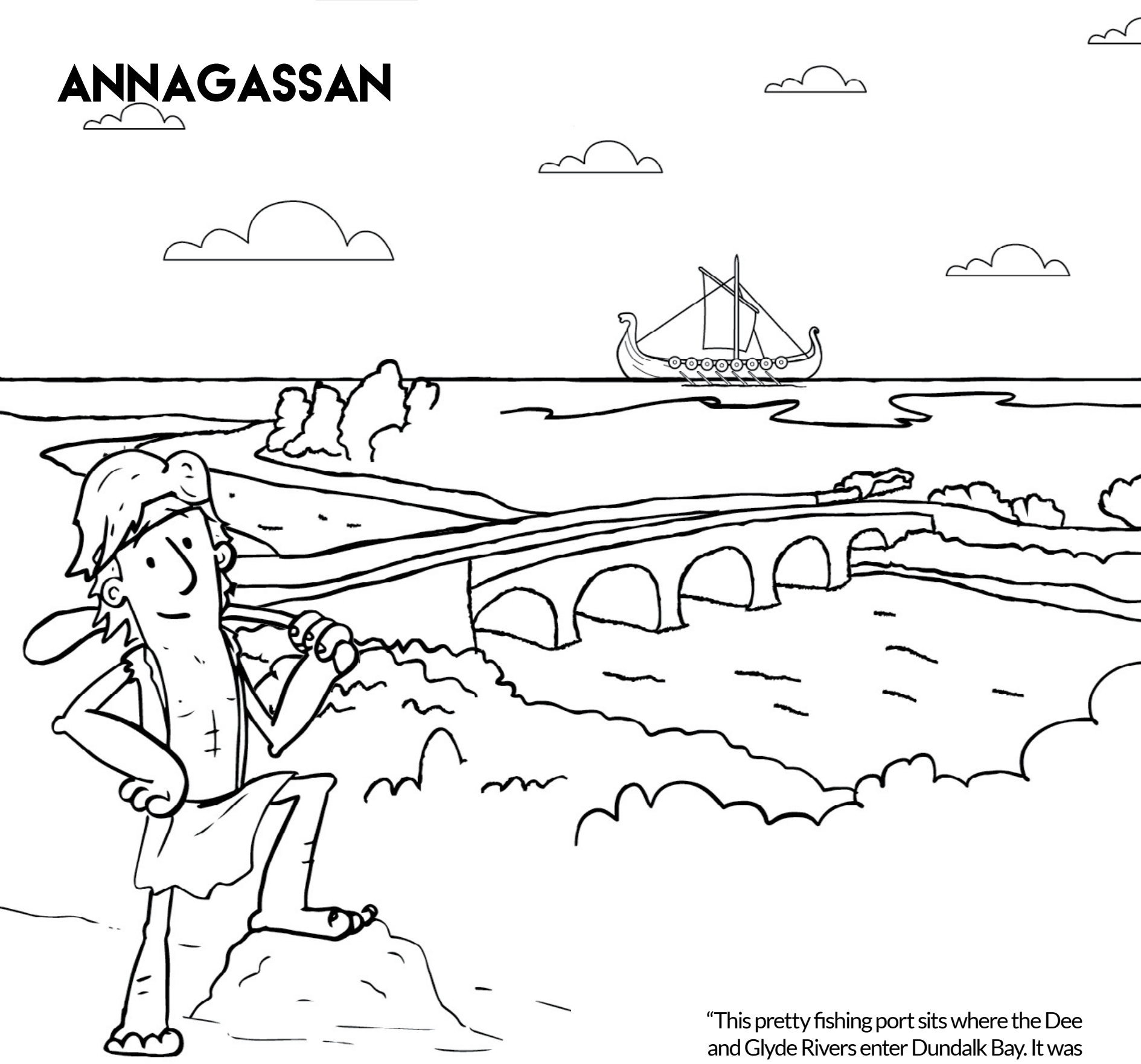
This lovely church was built 200 years ago.
It was made to look like one in the English university city of Cambridge (King's College).

CLOGHER HEAD HARBOUR



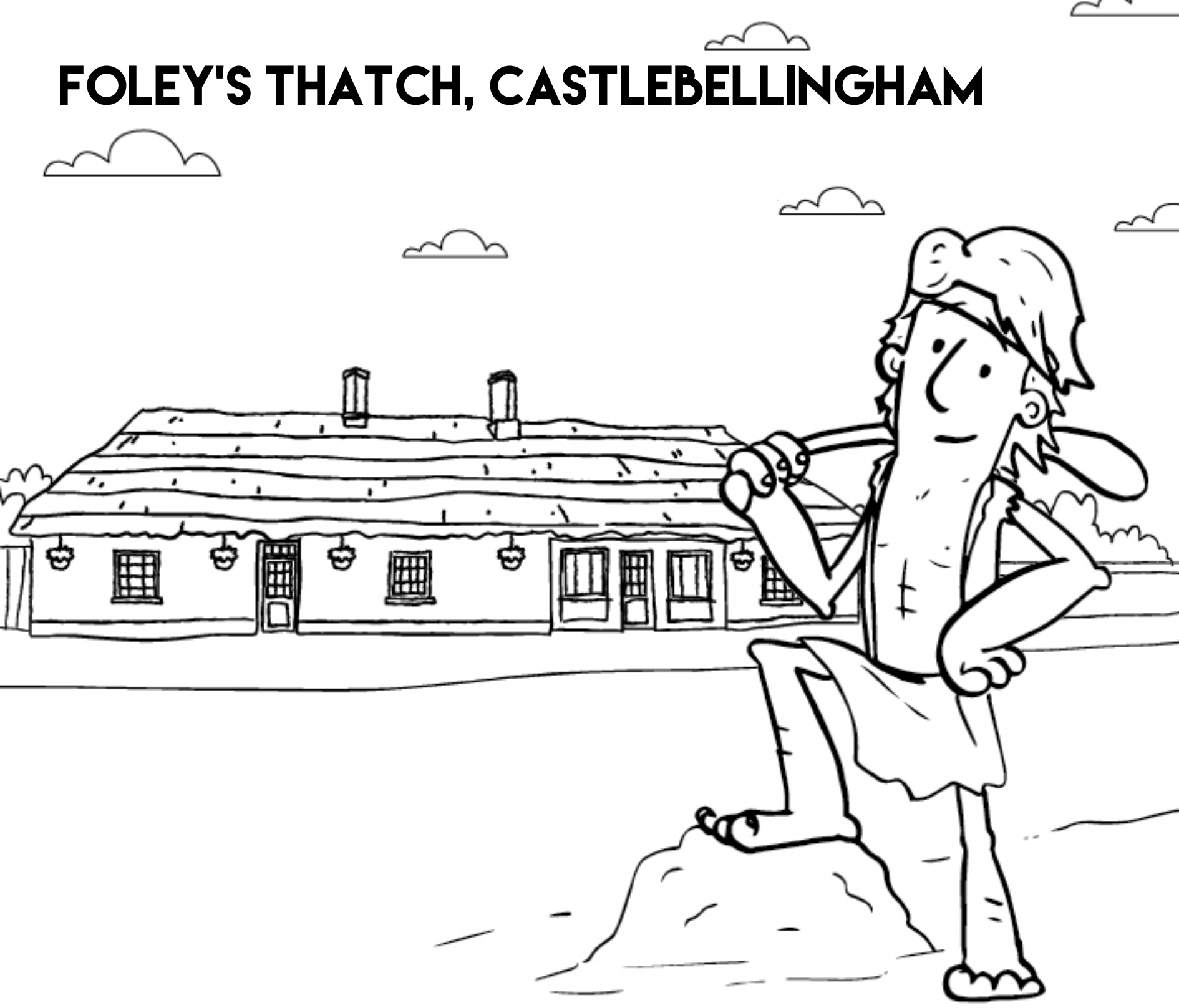
This is a great place to see fishing boats, seals and black guillemots. There is a high, rocky headland with lovely wildflowers and great views to the Mourne mountains.

ANNAGASSAN



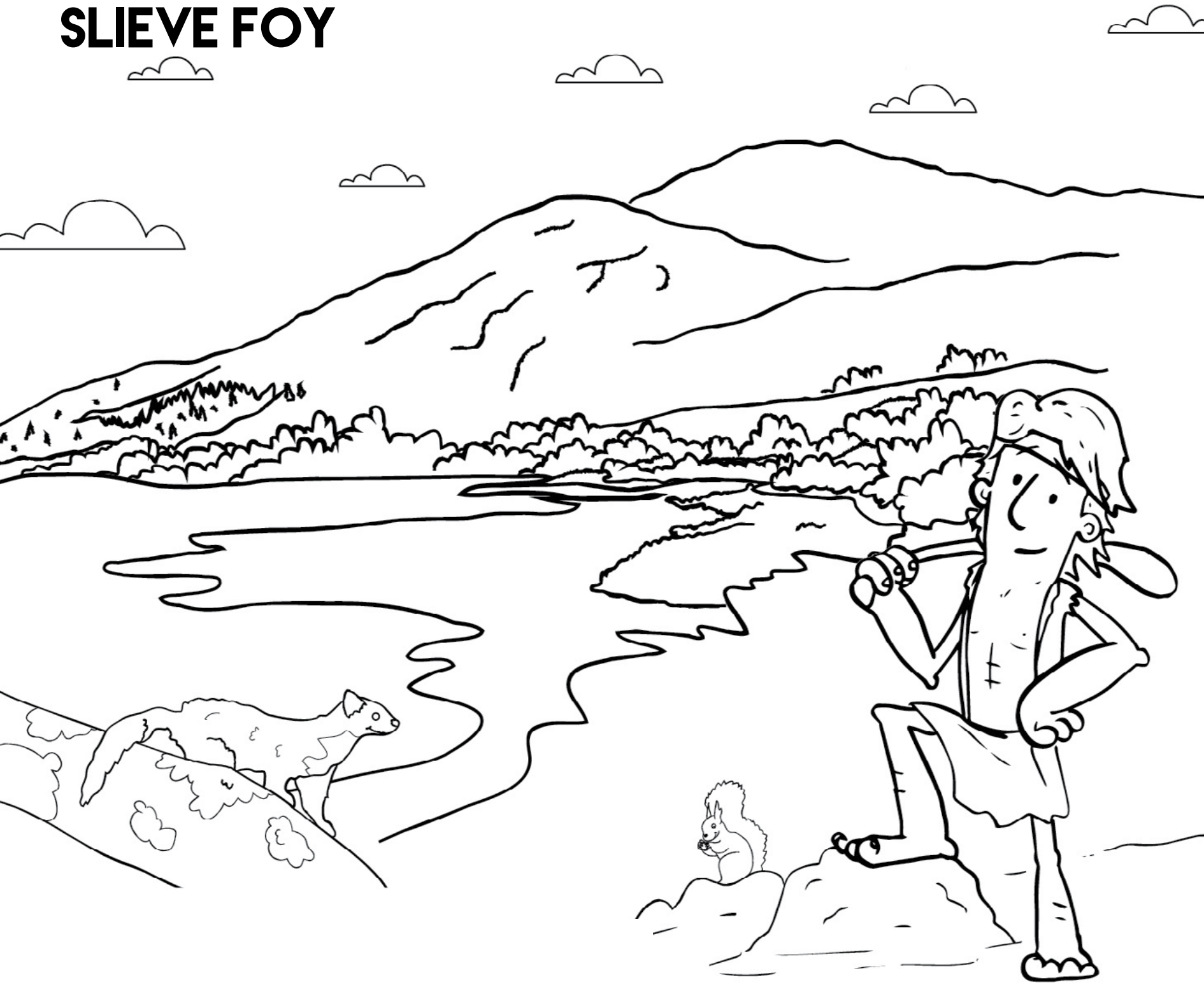
"This pretty fishing port sits where the Dee and Glyde Rivers enter Dundalk Bay. It was the first big Viking 'longphort' in Ireland."

FOLEY'S THATCH, CASTLEBELLINGHAM



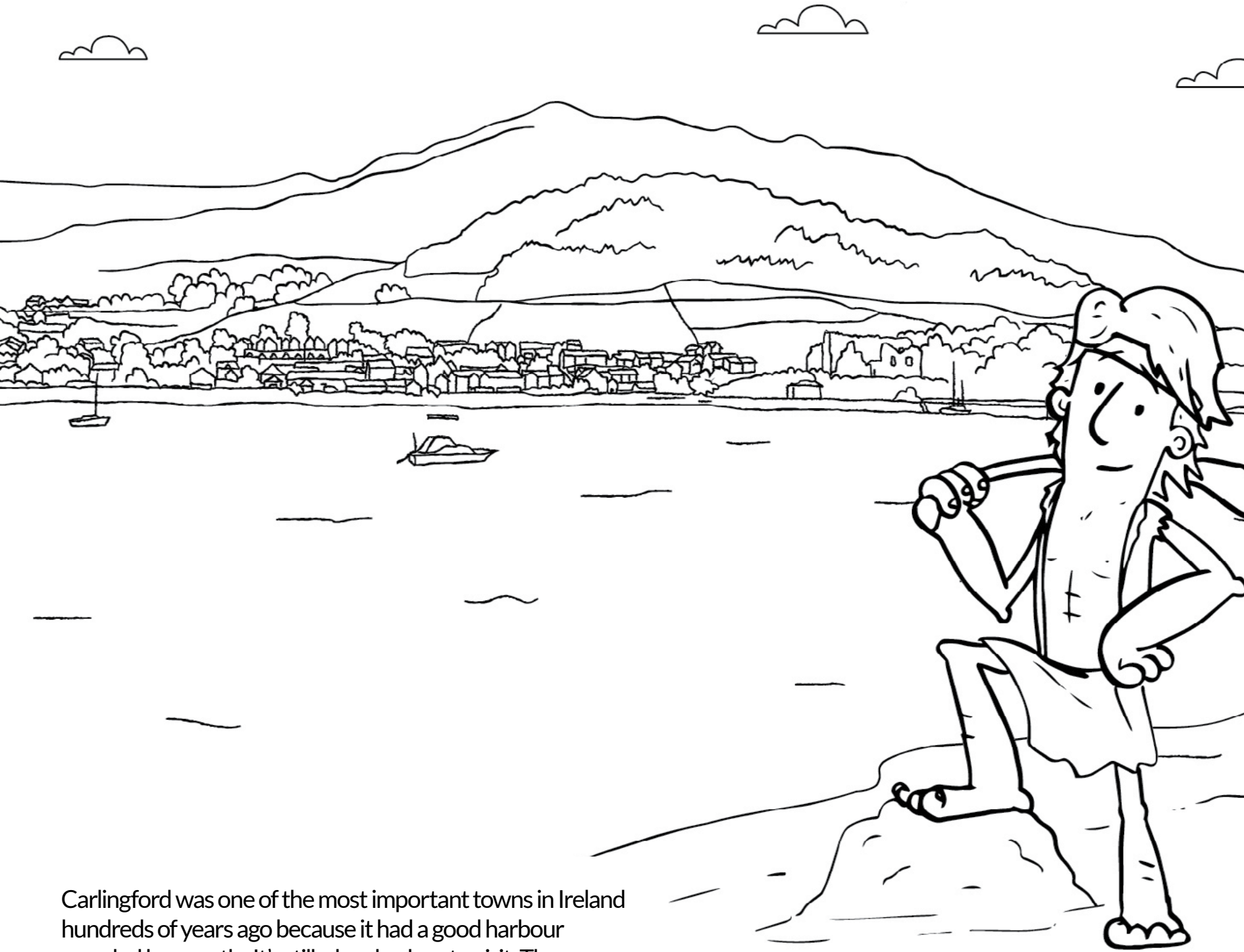
This is the biggest thatched roof in county Louth. Under it is a lovely tearoom, in the lovely village of Castlebellingham.

SLIEVE FOY



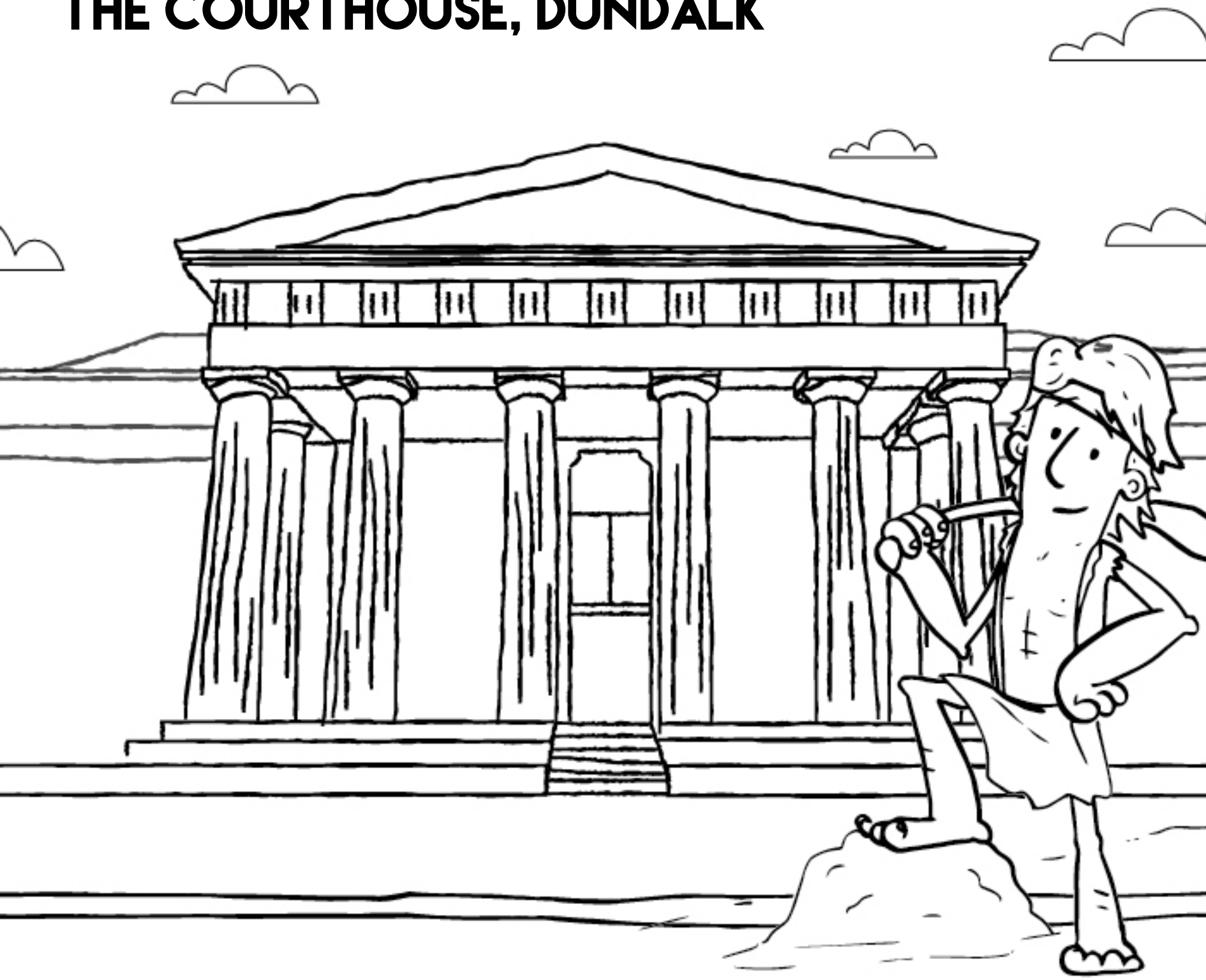
County Louth's highest point reaches 588m. It is made of a rare, hard, dark-coloured rock called gabbro.

CARLINGFORD & THE SLEEPING GIANT



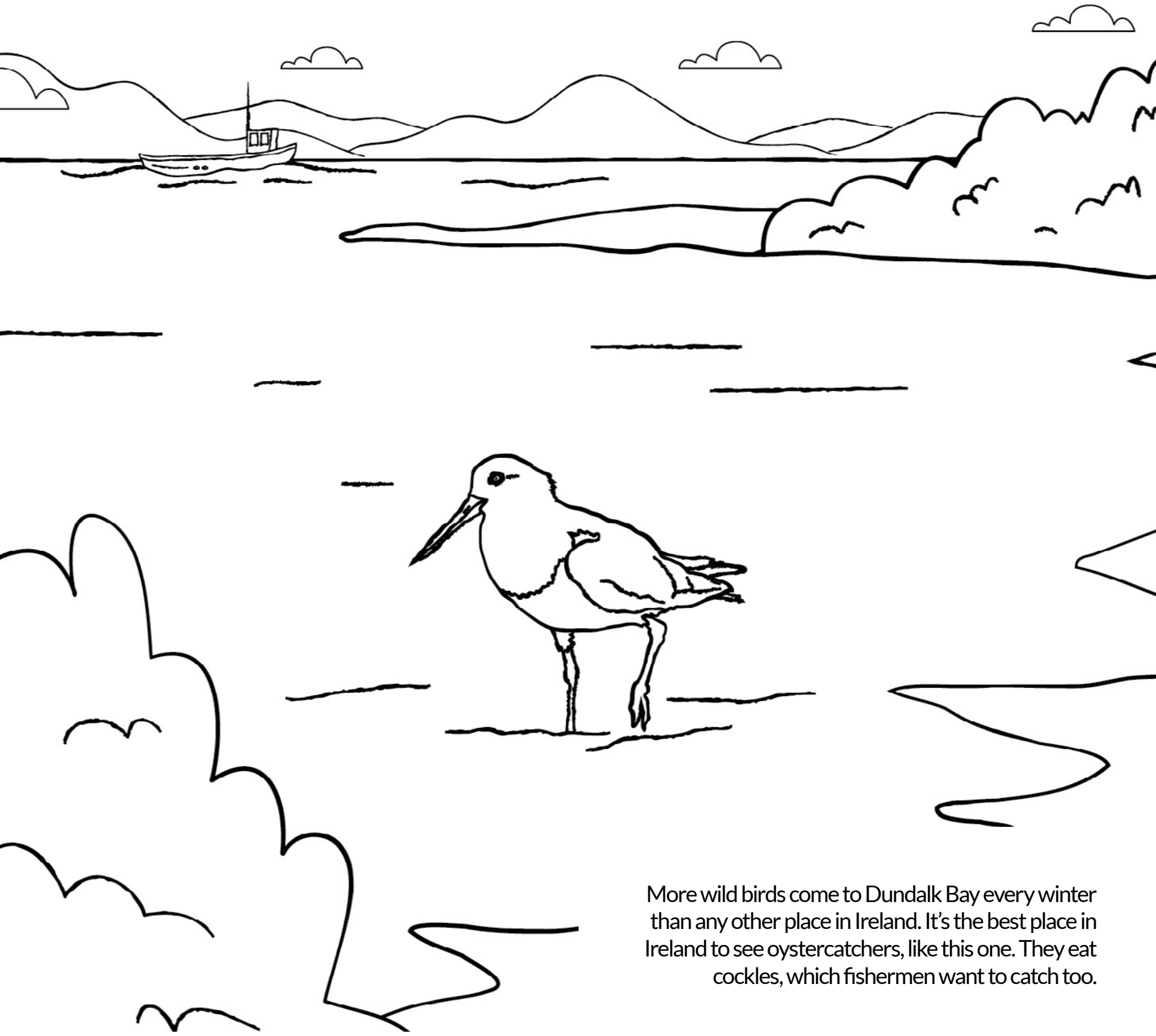
Carlingford was one of the most important towns in Ireland hundreds of years ago because it had a good harbour guarded by a castle. It's still a lovely place to visit. The mountain looks like the giant Fionn Mac Cumhaill lying sleeping on his back.

THE COURTHOUSE, DUNDALK

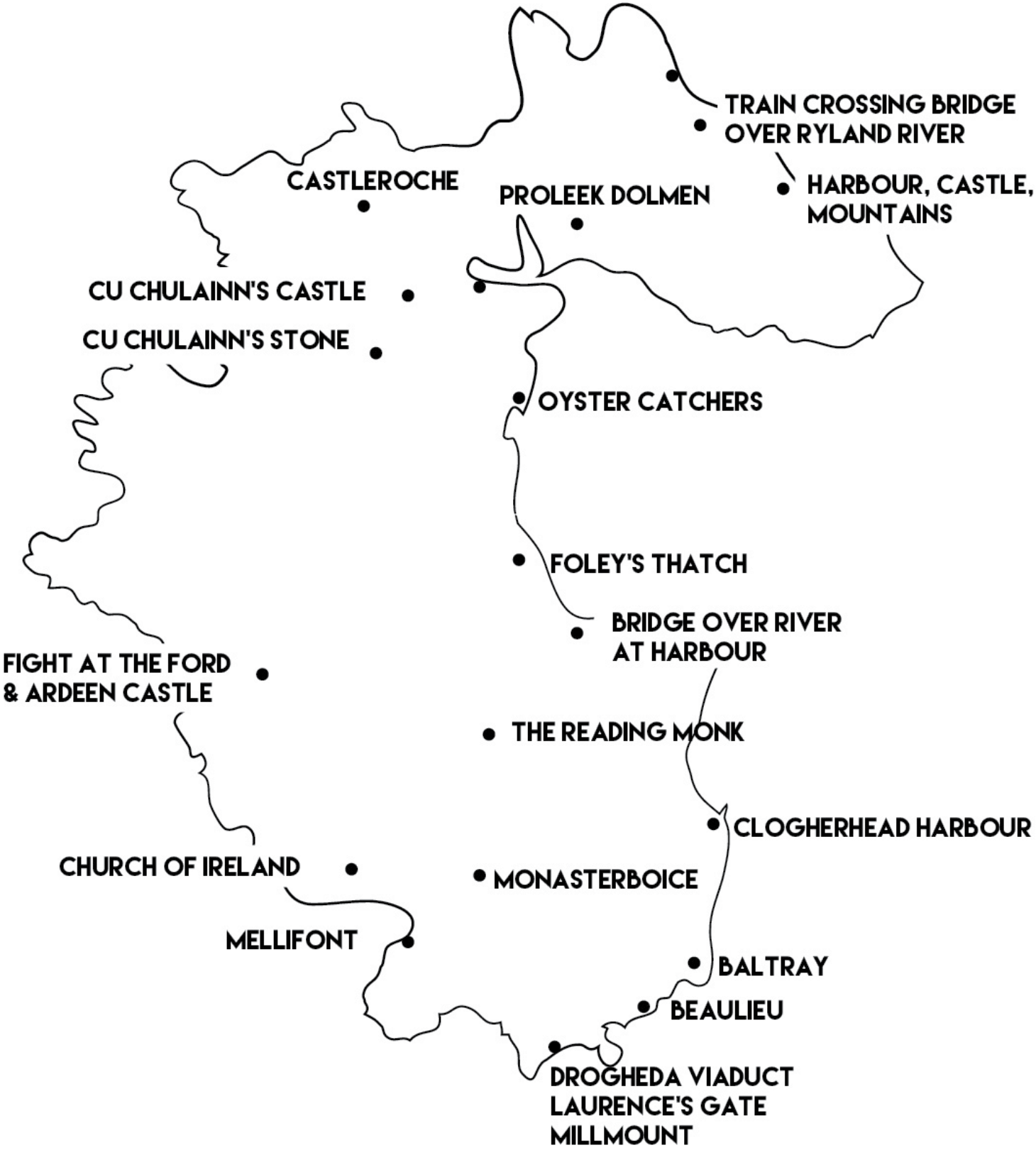


Dundalk's courthouse was built 200 years ago and looks like an ancient Greek temple. It is on Dundalk's Market Square.

OYSTER CATCHER, DUNDALK BAY



More wild birds come to Dundalk Bay every winter than any other place in Ireland. It's the best place in Ireland to see oystercatchers, like this one. They eat cockles, which fishermen want to catch too.


TRAIN CROSSING BRIDGE
OVER RYLAND RIVER
CASTLEROCHE
PROLEEK DOLMEN
HARBOUR, CASTLE,
MOUNTAINS
CU CHULAINN'S CASTLE
CU CHULAINN'S STONE
OYSTER CATCHERS
FOLEY'S THATCH
BRIDGE OVER RIVER
AT HARBOUR
FIGHT AT THE FORD
& ARDEEN CASTLE
THE READING MONK
CLOGHERHEAD HARBOUR
CHURCH OF IRELAND
MONASTERBOICE
MELLIFONT
BALTRAY
BEAULIEU
DROGHEDA VIADUCT
LAURENCE'S GATE
MILLMOUNT

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council